

How Did My Coffee Cup Get There

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff ©1.27.13

In the future: A futuristic-looking Supreme Court (its members attired in colorful robes adorned with scattered blinking lights) is hearing a matter of futuristic concern: Should people have the legal right to make 3D vids of other people and/or other people's things and then project holograms of these images wherever they wish.

As arguments are presented, it unfolds that the technology to do this has grown extremely common, and is being rampantly used in highly devious ways, even functioning as a powerful tool for criminal behavior. It has led to a near-breakdown of people's perception of reality, as innocent people find themselves surrounded by holograms and have no idea where they really are. Its use has become an out-of-control pranking trend.

Concurrent with these revelations, we gradually see how the courtroom itself contains numerous manifestations of this breakdown of perceived reality. The Supreme Court judges we see prove to be holograms, the real Supreme Court judges apparently being invisibly seated 12 feet to the left from where they appear to be, for security reasons. This causes the judges to giggle when it is discovered, as they enjoy fooling people, a few clever remarks emerging from them as well. They are extremely self-satisfied with having gotten people to look at their holograms instead of the real them.

Increasingly, the attorney arguing against the technology finds himself in an environment much like Alice in the Queen's Court in Wonderland. Holograms of the Marx Bros. contribute to the deterioration of sanity. People in the courtroom are themselves using the technology to project objects into the room that aren't really there, e.g., a hula dancer appears. This is all legal, and is used to exasperate the attorney arguing it be banned. His exasperation mounts as the courtroom grows crazier and more fun to everyone else there.

THE END